

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 119, No. 19

News you can use, news you can trust

Northville continues to dominate
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Challenger wins votes for school board

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

When the votes were tallied Tuesday night, Sandy Crout, a first-time candidate who is the financial controller for the 34th District Court, beat incumbent school board member Niema White by a more than 2-1 margin. Another challenger, Danielle Funderburg, earned 333 votes, and White earned 167.

Crout, who is married to City Councilman Harry Crout, campaigned heavily throughout the city said she would take a common-sense approach to steering the 4,300-student school district.

"We need to make sure that we

look for solutions that save money, but effect the quality of education we provide," she said. "There are quite a few small things that could be addressed."

She cited Riverview Public Schools as an example last month in an interview. That district instituted a self-insurance program for prescription drugs, which saved money because the district

was no longer dealing with an insurance company for that service.

"Those are the kinds of things we should be looking at," she said. "We have to remember that every time we lay off a teacher or employee, we're taking away somebody's livelihood."

When the votes were counted, there was a small margin

"We have to remember that every time we lay off a teacher or employee, we're taking away somebody's livelihood."

Sandra Crout



Sandra Crout

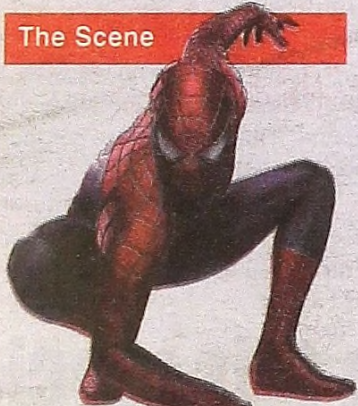
between Crout and Funderburg, a former parent volunteer who has

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Donor registration drive is today

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The Scene



Spider-man 3 is a tangled web

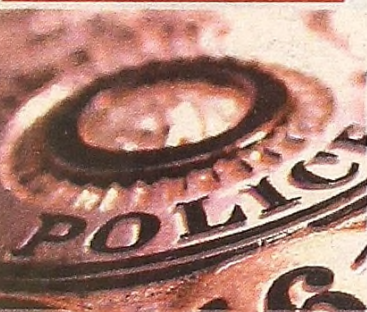
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Theater group tries to 'beat the bulldozer'

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Police have busy week

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Bridget and Aaron McAdoo Sr. with a picture of their son, Aaron, on prom night in 2003.

Mom, dad remember slain son

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Bridget Griggs-McAdoo is facing a Mother's Day unlike any other she's experienced in the past.

The mother of five – used to seeing her son, Aaron, 21, with a gift in his hand – will spend most of the day mourning his death, and asking herself a question no one seems to be able to answer: Why?

"It's going to be difficult this year because we're a close family, and we did so many things right, and nothing about what happened to Aaron is

right," she said. "It's something that's never going to go away."

Aaron McAdoo, who had spent a few years working odd jobs before making the decision to follow in his father's footsteps by entering an apprentice program to become an electrician and moving into a new apartment in Belleville, was fatally shot after a game of basketball at the Sky Harbor Apartments at Eureka and Brandt Roads.

Two men – Brandon Burkett, 18, and Jamal Sam, 17 – now stand accused of the fatal drive-by shooting the 2001 Romulus High School gradu-

ate. Another man, Anthony Harris, 18, is charged as an accessory after the fact.

A fight about a girl that occurred before Aaron McAdoo arrived at the apartment March 26, is believed to be the cause of the shooting.

For Griggs-McAdoo and her husband, Aaron McAdoo Sr., the reason is baffling.

"You hear about the this kind of thing all of the time," said Aaron McAdoo Sr. "In all honestly, it's not surprising that something like this happened with the number of guns out

See **McAdoo**, page 3

3 men will face trial in fatality

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Judge David Parrott of the 34th District Court in Romulus determined that there was enough evidence to bind over three men on murder and accessory after the fact of murder in the fatal shooting of a 21-year-old man.

The judge made the determination after a pre-trial examination for Brandon Burkett, 18, of Taylor; Jamal Sam, 17, of Romulus and Anthony Harris, 17, of Romulus, on May 2.

Burkett and Sam are charged with first-degree murder; assault with intent to murder and felony firearms in the fatal shooting of Aaron McAdoo of Belleville. Those charges could put the men behind bars for the rest of their lives if they are convicted.

Harris is charged with a felony count of accessory after the fact to murder for allegedly hiding the gun police believe was used to fatally wound McAdoo. The charge is punishable by up to five years in prison.

During the hearing, two witnesses who were with McAdoo on March 26 at the Sky Harbor Apartments on Eureka Road and Brandt Avenue testified about what they saw on that evening. The problems started after a fight occurred among two

See **Death**, page 3

Drive for life

Need for bone marrow prompts donor registration drive today

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Dr. Ouida Cash is a familiar face at Starfish Family Services in Inkster.

But Cash, the director of the agency, which helps families battle to overcome hardships, has been absent lately as she fights for her life.

In February, the 59-year-old Northville resident was diagnosed with leukemia, and is slated to receive a bone marrow transplant later this month.

Though Cash has already overcome half the odds by finding a suitable donor, her colleagues at Starfish want to make the possibility of bone marrow transplants more likely for those afflicted with blood-borne diseases by sponsoring a bone marrow drive to increase the number of donor profiles on the National Marrow Donor Program Registry.

The drive is slated for today from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Starfish Hively Road headquarters. It is

the culmination of those efforts, said Pam Lincoln, the director of communications for the non-profit group.

"Dr. Cash is so inspiring, and she was lucky to be able to find a donor," she said. "Many people don't find one. Our goal with this is to get more people on the registry and create awareness."

Cash has a 29-year history in leading human service agencies that help children and families in Inkster, Western Wayne County, and beyond. She said she's hopeful the registry will be able to assist people who are suffering.

"It's odd not knowing about the person who will be saving my life — an anonymous hero," said Cash. "This is what each person who signs up at Starfish to be a donor will be."

Participants at the donor drive will take part in an easy, noninvasive process that involves a self-administered cheek swab. Anyone who meets the health guidelines and is age 18 through 60 can join the registry. After



Dr. Ouida Cash

completing a brief health questionnaire, registrants collect a small sample of cheek cells. The whole process takes just 15 minutes, Lincoln said.

"The process is very easy," she said. "And, it can save a life."

Leukemia is the name given to cancer of the blood cells. It is extraordinarily difficult to treat, but with development of new

treatments like bone marrow transplants, the survival rate has increased, according to data gathered by the national Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

In the early 1960s, patients had a 14 percent chance of living five years. By the 1970s, however, the survival rate for the same period increased to 35 percent. In the late 1990s, the survival rate jumped again to nearly 49 percent, according to society research.

The disease seems to strike more males than females; with 57 percent of victims being men. Also, incident rates are up among African Americans and other minorities, with Hispanic children having the highest rate of leukemia, the data shows.

Lincoln said minorities need to be especially concerned about joining the registry.

"I read a study recently that showed that if you're a minority, your chance of finding a match on the registry drops from a 10 to a two, and it's because there's not

enough minorities on the registry," she said.

A person who needs a bone marrow transplant is more likely to find a match with someone who is of the same ethnic background, though that's not always the case, Lincoln said.

Bone marrow transplants allow patients diagnosed with life-threatening blood diseases to form new, healthy, blood-forming cells, which then develop into red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets, which helps the body fight, and eventually eradicate, blood diseases.

Lincoln said the importance of coming out to the drive has hit home with Starfish staff and the families in the area who know Cash.

"This is something we want to do to honor her," she said. "No matter what, we need to get more people on the registry."

For more information about the marrow donor drive, call Starfish Family Services at (734) 727-3109.

Salvation Army plans collections throughout area this week

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

A volunteer recruitment drive and national food collection campaign are some of the activities local Salvation Army Corps have under way as part of National Salvation Army Week.

Starting Monday and continuing through the week, Salvation Army Corps throughout western Wayne County will be reminding residents that the needs of the community extend beyond Christmas.

"Things go around all-year long here," said Kelley Boelter, the public relations director and volunteer coordinator for the Plymouth Community Salvation Army.

Boelter said many people, including some of their volunteers, just think of the organization during the Christmas holidays. In an attempt to educate the community, Boelter said the Plymouth Corps

would send a series of email blasts to their volunteers encouraging them to support their other activities.

One such activity is the collection of non-perishable canned and dry goods this Saturday.

Boelter said Salvation Army volunteers across the county along with the National Letter Carriers Association would collect the goods as mail carriers deliver the weekend mail.

All the goods collected by the Plymouth-area volunteers will stay in the area, according to Boelter. The Plymouth Corps services families and individuals in

Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, Northville Township and Belleville.

"People just have to place their goods next to their mailboxes and we'll pick it up," she said.

The donation wish list includes: boxed food items, peanut butter, jelly, jam, sugar, cereal, powdered drinks, feminine

hygiene products, deodorant, shaving cream, hair shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toilet tissue, paper towels, dish soap, bar soap laundry detergent, diapers

and baby food.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact the Plymouth Corps at (734) 453-5464.

People just have
to place their goods
next to their mailboxes
and we'll pick it up.

Kelley Boelter

MAKE HER DAY AS SPECIAL AS SHE IS

Join us for
Brunch
at
The Hellenic Cultural Center
36375 Joy Rd. • Westland, MI 48185
Sunday May 13, 2007
Hot Breakfast and Entrée Station
Fluffy Scrambled Eggs • Maple Glazed Ham • Hickory Smoked Bacon • Bow Tie Pasta Calabrese
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with a chocolate fountain.**

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State legislator is target of 'trash talk'

Scott Spielman
Editor

Residents in Plymouth, Northville and Wayne received a surprise when they retrieved their garbage cans this week.

Taped to many of them was a piece of political literature criticizing State Rep. Mark Corriveau (D-Northville) for his recent vote to increase tipping fees at landfills.

"If it was accurate, I might not have had a problem with it," said Corriveau, who has been defending his vote at municipal meetings throughout the 20th House District. "This is a smear campaign and it seems to be directed just at me."

The group Michigan Taxpayers Alliance—headed by former legislator Leon Drolet—distributed the flyers, which have drawn complaints in all of the impacted communities.

Mark Blackwell, a Wayne resident, complained to city authorities there when he saw the flyers distributed throughout his neighborhood.

"I don't think it's legal," he said.

Corriveau and other Democrats in the House approved an increase in tipping fees last month as part of a package of bills designed to curb the influx of out of state waste, he said. Before the vote, the state had charged only 21 cents a ton.

"If it was accurate, I might not have had a problem with it. This is a smear campaign and it seems to be directed just at me."

Rep. Mark Corriveau

The new rate, \$7.50 per ton, is in line with neighboring states, he said.

The package limits expansions at existing landfills and bans new ones. It was approved in the

house along party lines.

"Trash trucks roll over our borders every day carrying trash from other states and Canada, and they do so for two reasons—it is dirt cheap to dump in Michigan and we have a glut of landfill space," Corriveau said. "Limiting the amount of landfill space we have to offer is a sure-fire way to limit the amount of medical waste, human sludge and other trash that gets dumped here."

Municipal leaders have questioned the move, though, because of an unknown impact on their budgets and residents. With the economic condition the State of Michigan is in—and the history of legislators to make budget cuts through reductions of funds sent

to local municipalities and school districts—they said they were concerned about this revenue source drying up, too.

"I'm always leery and a little concerned when any amount of money is sent to Lansing that it will be returned, dollar for dollar," said Northville Mayor Christopher Johnson. "It gives the folks in Lansing the opportunity to take it before it can get back to the people who need it."

Corriveau said the 'trash talk' wouldn't change his mind.

"I will continue fighting to protect our communities, land, air, water and roads from the threat of Canadian and out-of-state trash," he said. "The trashing of Michigan must come to an end."

News in brief

Romulus little league fundraiser on tap

A Texas Hold 'Em tournament is planned to aid the Romulus Little League organization. Money earned during the event will help pay for equipment for the team.

Tournament prizes will be at least \$500.

The event will take place at 11 a.m. on May 20 at the Romulus Lanes, 37452 W. Huron River Dr.

All positions paid will be based on the number of tickets sold.

Tickets cost \$60 per person, and a meal is included in the price.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call (734) 913-3646.

Sheriff's department offers women-only gun class

The Wayne County Sheriff's Department will host a class specifically for women interested in receiving a permit to carry a concealed weapon between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. this Saturday.

The first half of the day will consist of classroom-based instruction at the Sheriff's

Training Center in Belleville while the second half will feature firearms training at the indoor pistol range in Westland. Guns and ammunition will be provided; attendees must provide specific eye and ear protection and cleaning kits.

The cost of the program is \$125. The class is a gun safety class only and completion of the program does not guarantee the approval of individual CCW permits. To register for the class, contact the Sheriff's Training Center at (734) 699-6008.

Chamber dinner is tomorrow

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce will honor the "Person of the Year" at dinner tomorrow, May 11.

The winner, Linda McNeil, will receive the honor at the reception, which takes place at the Crown Plaza Romulus hotel.

The reception begins at 6:30 p.m., and dinner is served at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 per person.

For more information, contact the chamber at (734) 893-0694.

Election

FROM PAGE 1

made two attempts to win a seat.

The biggest shocker, however, is the fact that an incumbent lost the race in city that tends to stick with experienced office holders.

White said she did not actively campaign for the seat.

"My school board experience has been wonderful," she said. "It's been very rewarding, and I want to thank the voters for supporting me for the last five years."

When the school board reconvenes on May 14, they will face several daunting issues, including a statewide plan that could eliminate \$125 per student from this year's budget. Also on the table is an plan pitched by the administration to lay off several teachers and support staff to balance the books on next year's budget.

Crout said she hopes to tackle many issues that came up when she spoke with voters.

She learned that there were a few times when the schools could not provide enough books for stu-



Danielle Funderburg

dents to take home to complete their studies.

"If you don't have enough books, it become impossible for those students to study what they need to," she said. "That directly affects their ability to learn, and their ability to pass the (Michigan Education Assessment) test."

She said she will actively seek job training opportunities for students because they made a difference during her career. She also said those opportunities for on-the-job-training at work are disappearing.

"It's great when someone wants to go to college, but we



Niema White

need people with other skills, like roofers or construction workers," she said. "I was lucky in my career to receive a lot of training, but for young people, those opportunities just aren't available as often. We need to be able to offer young people more of what they need before they enter the job market."

Crout has worked in finance for about 20 years. She also volunteers with Romulus Helping Hands and helps plan the joint city-schools Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities.

Crout was unreachable for comment Tuesday evening.

McAdoo

FROM PAGE 1

there, but when it's your own son, it changes. There's a lot of anger."

Aaron McAdoo's life was coming into clearer focus when he was killed, his mother said. He worked all through high school, and was slated to begin an electrician's apprentice program on June 1. Up until then, he worked for his mother's employment agency, and for a few other firms.

"He moved out into his own apartment," she said. "He told me that he was 21 years old, and that it was time to be a man. He wanted to be independent."

In the McAdoo household, there was always a lot of conversation. Griggs-McAdoo said Aaron often played the role of peacemaker.

"He was very easygoing, he would always tell people to calm down," she said. "He was not the kind of person that would pick up a gun to settle anything—that makes what happened hurt more, that someone would do something like this."

Griggs-McAdoo was at home getting ready for bed when the phone rang in the evening hours of March 26.

"I wasn't going to answer it because it was late, but something told me to pick it up," she said. "It was my older son, Robert. He said Aaron had been shot over at Sky Harbor."

"I drove to the hospital as fast as I could, and they were doing surgery," she said. "But the doctors came out and told us later that he didn't make it. The doctors said they did all they could to save his life."

Aaron McAdoo Sr. was in New York State, and also found out about his son over the phone.

Since Aaron McAdoo's death, his mother—a paralegal for more than 20 years before she went into business for herself—has looked at every detail of what happened to her son.

"I've questioned everything," she said. "I wonder why the shooting occurred on a different side of the apartment complex than where that fight took place. I've gone over the police report so many times."

She said attending the court

proceedings has been hard on her and her family.

"I was in court one day, and I heard people laughing before the examination began, and I couldn't help but think that it was a month to the day that I buried my son," she said. "My daughter gets emotional. My husband just walked in the hallway (of the court) because he was upset."

Both parents say they believe violence in the culture and the inability of lawmakers to recognize the availability of illegal guns contributed to their son's death.

"There's a crisis here, and it has to do with firearms," Aaron McAdoo said. "There are so many of them in poor neighborhoods. No one wants to recognize that as a fact, but this can't go on forever."

Griggs-McAdoo said she intends to attend every day of the trial, when it occurs. She said she just wants justice for her son.

"Nothing's going to bring Aaron back; I know that," she said. "But I want everyone to know that he was a big part of our lives. He was very much loved."

Death

FROM PAGE 1

groups of young men.

"I saw a Dodge Charger drive by us and turn around... We started running when we saw a gun, and Aaron was behind me. When I looked back, Aaron was on the ground," said Clarence Stewart, who was with the victim when he was shot.

Eventually, the men saw a handgun emerge from a partially open window, and sever shots were fired. One of those shots struck McAdoo in the head. In a written confession given by Sam, he admitted to firing the shots, but said he was afraid of Burkett.

A fight that broke out at the

apartment complex is believed to be the catalyst for the violence that ensued that evening. McAdoo was not involved in the fight, and was at the complex to play basketball. His family said he did not know Burkett or Sam.

Burkett's lawyer, Raymond Burkett, who is the defendant's grandfather, questioned why he was not called by police after Brandon Burkett told officers his grandfather was a criminal defense attorney. However, Parrot determined that information can be debated at trial.

During the proceeding, a packed courtroom of relatives of both of the victim and accused were present.

The three men will be formally arraigned at on all of the charges at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

OPINION

Now's the time...

For those out there who think they have a better idea of the way their city should be run, now is the time to put those ideas together.

Beginning next week, the deadlines for candidates to file for city offices will start rolling up. The deadline for the City of Wayne is May 15, others follow.

It's always an interesting time leading up to an election. More seats in council meeting rooms tend to be filled; the citizen comments portions of the agenda take a little longer and are filled with more lofty ideas. People tend to spout their anger, too.

When it comes time to translate that anger into action, though, those that are most vocal usually don't take the next step.

It's somewhat understandable, on a human level. It's always easier to complain about what's wrong than it is to try to fix it. Words are easier to come by than solutions and there is less risk involved.

We're not saying that everyone with a complaint should line up at their respective clerk's office or anything like that—although it'd be kind of nice to see that level of participation—because the role of a vocal critic can be a vital one in the political process, too.

For those who are thinking about doing more, though, about getting involved with the process instead of merely railing against it from the outside, now is the time to gather petitions, solidify thoughts and think about solutions.

Dirty deeds done early

Normally, after a state election cycle, there's a bit of a lull before the nastiness starts up again.

That doesn't appear to be the case this year.

About 18 months before the next statewide election, the slings and arrows are already flying—and many of them are aimed at phantom targets, born on the wings of conjecture.

There has been election literature sent out that takes swipes at candidates in several local elections—including the Plymouth-Canton schools and the Schoolcraft College trustee race—that are most likely preliminary shots for 2008.

These things seem to be taking shots just in case candidate so-and-so is positioning himself or herself for a run at the state Legislature or the U.S. Congress or who knows what.

It certainly sets the stage for an ugly political season to come.

The most recent thing was a glossy sheet attached to garbage cans throughout the 20th House District this week slamming Democrat Marc Corriveau and his vote to increase tipping fees at landfills in order to curb the amount of out-of-state waste that is coming in to Michigan.

Funded by the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, the piece of literature drew complaints in cities like Wayne and Northville—both a part of the district—and, understandably, from Corriveau, himself.

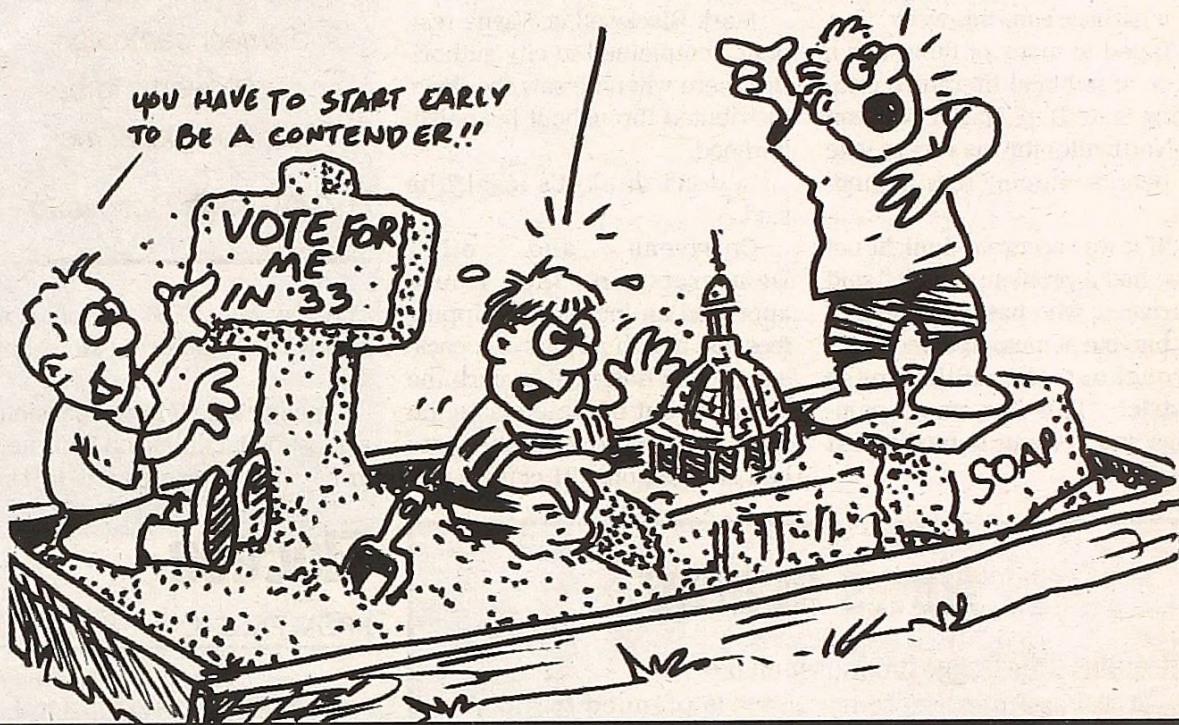
He's been making the rounds, trying to ensure city leaders that the increase in tipping fees won't further jeopardize municipal budgets or represent a hidden tax charged to residents. All the proceeds from the increase will filter back to local communities—many of which would see more revenue from the plan.

Well, we'll see about that. Legislators in Lansing don't have a strong track record as far as equal distribution of those shared revenues; history shows they're more likely to dip into them to solve budget problems across the state rather than let them go to the cities to be used for what they should be used for.

Corriveau expressed surprise that the negative literature would come out with his own election in the distant future. He shouldn't be. The 20th District will be one of the major attack points for the Republican Party as they try to regain control of the House in 2008.

See Politics, page 5

WHEN I GET ELECTED, I'LL PUT AN
END TO THIS PARTISAN SAND BOX USE !!



Night of music, summer of potential

This will prove to be an interesting summer for the supporters of the Historic Wayne Theater.

The group of volunteers is hosting a series of concerts outside the theater every week, hoping to attract attention to their efforts to restore the theater and, hopefully, help revitalize the downtown area.

They've got a long way to go, but they're working hard at it. That's probably the best way to undertake something like this: don't keep looking up at the peak, but at the ground right under your feet. Then take another step.

Don Nicholson, who is spearheading the effort, will probably have quite a few public relations battles ahead of him, too. The concerts take place outside the theater, which is relatively close to the Newberry Square Apartments, populated mostly by senior citizens.

It goes without saying that some of the music that will happen on Friday nights, won't bring the seniors out with their dancing shoes.

The theater group has made some changes after the few concerts they hosted last year. They moved the stage so that it backs up to the theater wall, rather than the empty lot where the old Jamieson Block building once stood. If I understand anything about sound waves—a dubious assumption, let me assure you—that means that most of the sound will be projected to the south, toward the street, rather than bouncing off the

walls and into the senior citizen apartments.

Even so, there are bound to be complaints.

It's a difficult place to be in. The concerts are necessary in order to promote the efforts to restore the theater and bring in some funding that will get the project under way. At the same time, it's not wise to offend one's neighbors or—in the case of the city council—one's voters.

Nicholson told me a story Monday about the first concert, which took place a few days earlier.

A resident of the apartment building came down to complain, but by the time Nicholson had explained what they were trying to do with the theater, he had won her over to his side. She even brought back a few of her neighbors.

Granted, a chorus doing their take on James Bond tunes is a little different than a sweaty 20-something mangling a guitar riff, but the example is still the best way to deal with any ongoing problems. Explain what you're trying to do, keep things as civilized and as sensitive to their concerns as can be, and try to win people over, one at a time.

This project will be very difficult, to say the least. It will require a lot of cooperation between the city, its residents and those who come to visit.

The payoff is worth a few noisy Fridays, though. If they are successful with this project, it will be quite a boon to the downtown area.

Close
to the
Edge

by Scott Spielman

An open letter to Michigan graduates

Dear Future Valued Michigan Taxpayer:

There's a time in every person's life when adventure seems irresistible. The world is calling: go, see, do what your heart desires. Carpe diem. Travel, leave the nest, cut the cord, seek out new life and new civilizations.

Students, listen closely: This is not one of those times.

You may have read that many students in Michigan are planning to leave the state after graduation. You may even know one of them. You may have helped them pack and said to your self, "I wonder if this could be me one day. Like, tomorrow."

I say to you, RESIST. You don't have to see what it's like to live somewhere else. It's all so overrated.

Want to move to Florida? They've got hurricanes—not the kind made out of Bacardi. California? Earthquakes and landslides. Seattle? Quite wet. Chicago? Um, I heard the streets collapse. Wyoming?

Really, you're moving to Wyoming? Wow, we're in trouble.

Well, if the old appeal to fear isn't working, maybe you might consider the reasons you're here in the first place. As you receive that degree, remember your parents. You know, the ones who endured everything to give you a good life, who'll be stuck here as you go off making money in Nevada (It's a desert, you know. Plenty of water back here). They'll have to fly all the way out there to see you and only then on holidays and after a while, son, it's just so far away and traveling is getting so expensive for them. You might never see your family again.

OK, bad example.

Anyway, the point is Michigan really needs you. I know you and Michigan aren't in a happy place right now. Things have been a little rocky. That's no reason to leave Michigan. You two can work things out. You want more fun, more stability, assurance about the future. That's fine! Michigan knows it was being selfish before and it promises to make things right this time.

The
notepad

by Kevin Hill

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Letter

FROM PAGE 4

Remember when you and Michigan first met? You were young, too young to know better. I mean, you couldn't even dress yourself, so how could you know what state you lived in?

But Michigan took care of you. You owe it to Michigan to give it a second chance. Believe it or not, we have employment needs in this state. And what careers, you ask, await a person in the land of the sick, depressed, fat and aging? Yes, health care! There are tons of jobs waiting to be had in hospitals and clinics across the land. What, your degree isn't in health care? OK, that's no problem.

Belleville letter carriers plan annual food drive

The Belleville letter carriers will join the National Association of Letter Carrier this Saturday during the annual food drive. As part of an effort to 'stamp out hunger' letter carriers will collect non-perishable donations as they deliver mail along their postal routes. Residents are asked to leave donations such as canned meat, fish or soup, pasta and rice near their mailbox. It will then be taken to the area post office and delivered to the local food banks. The 15th annual food drive is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Carriers collected 70.5 million pounds of

food last year, according to organizers. This year, food will be collected in more than 10,000 communities by nearly 1,500 area branches of the U.S. Postal Service, along with rural carriers and other volunteers.

Politics

FROM PAGE 4

And we mean attack, too. It probably won't be the last piece of misleading information we'll receive before then, either. Corriveau's seat is an important one for the Democrats, and if they're able to accomplish anything during this legislative cycle, you can bet that he'll be attached to it in some way. The best advice we can give to anyone living within the district—and that includes Corriveau, too—is to brace yourself and take everything with a grain of salt. And perhaps an aspirin or two.

Maybe your skills can apply somehow in the industry. What's your major again? Philosophy?! Are you serious? So that's it then, you're just leaving? That's what you do, huh? Just run away from all your problems. Simple as that, just take your philosophy degree to Wyoming. I hope you have a great time. Maybe when you're being trampled by some bison you'll realize you were better

off in Michigan. Come on, please stay! Hey, how 'bout this: The new Harry Potter isn't coming out for a couple months, but just so happens I know a guy in the Thumb with a truckload of those babies. Ha! I knew I could change your mind! Here you go, just don't forget to pay the new Bootlegger Tax— Hey, where are you going?

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2007

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Treasurer Budd. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Parks and Recreation Director Ross, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of seven (7).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the agenda as amended. To postpone New Business Items #2 "Consider adoption of Resolution 2007-24, Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Agreement (Police Division).", #3 "Consider adoption of Resolution 2007-25, Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Agreement (Fire Division)." and #4 "Consider adoption of Resolution 2007-26, Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact." Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Rochowiak moved, Clair seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of April 16, 2007 as presented. Carried.

Clair moved, Hart seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes of April 16, 2007 as amended. Carried.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2007 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Van Buren Township is in receipt of a dividend check in the amount of \$18,638 from the Michigan Municipal League. This funding represents a portion of the premiums that are returned to Van Buren due to efforts to reduce on the job injuries.

A thank you to Account Clerk Montgomery for her assistance through the burial process for a member of their family.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the contract with Colonial Fireworks for the 2007 Fireworks Display and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Hart moved, Clair seconded to approve the May 1, 2007 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Payne announced the Clerk's Office will be open Saturday May, 5th between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of processing absentee ballots for the Tuesday, May 8, 2007 Election where voters in the Van Buren Public School District will choose two (2) school board members and voters in the Lincoln Consolidated School District will choose two (2) school board members and vote on two (2) millage proposals. Contact the Clerk's Office at 734.699.8909 for additional voter information.

The Drive Thru Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Water and Sewer Building behind Township Hall.

The Recreation Department announced the following events: There are still limited spaces available in the summer camp programs. Also, Walk Michigan will be held every Wednesday beginning May 2nd until August 1st at Quirk Park and at the Lower Huron Metro Park, walk up to three miles every Wednesday to receive a ticket for a drawing to possibly win a trip to Mackinaw Island over the Labor Day Weekend. For additional information and registration contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A resident inquired about the status of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) contract negotiations. Clerk Payne stated that negotiations are ongoing and both parties agree to ground rules not to discuss the negotiation process and items.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: May 10, 2007

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DELTA FARCE (PG-13)
11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

28 WEEKS LATER (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

GEORGIA RULE (R) 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:45,
9:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:25

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:00

LUCKY YOU (PG-13) 11:30, 4:15, 7:10
NEXT (PG-13) 2:05, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

DISTURBIA (PG-13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

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THE SCENE

Reviewed By Luke Warm

TANGLED WEB Spider-man 3 disappoints on all levels

"We've all done things we wish we hadn't done," said Tobey Maguire as Peter Parker/Spider-man.

By that point near the end of *Spider-man 3*, I wondered if he was talking in character about the previous two hours or as an actor regretting his decision to sign on to this sequel.

Or maybe the line was a sort of apology from co-writer and director Sam Raimi, whose first two *Spider-man* movies rank among the pinnacle of comic books turned into films.

Wherever it came from, the line summed up the much-anticipated third installment of the movie series, a regrettable and overblown affair packed with too many storylines.

The film picks up where the spectacular *Spider-man 2* leaves off. Parker and Mary Jane Watson (Kristen Dunst) are in love, while their friend Harry Osborne (James Franco) plots his revenge against Spider-man, believing he killed his father, the first Green Goblin.

Spidey has other issues, too. A new hotshot photographer Eddie Brock (Topher Grace, from television's *That 70's Show*) is vying for his job. A new villain pops up in the form of Flint Marko (Thomas Hayden Church), who falls into some kind of molecular destabilizer and winds up transformed into a being that can control his own shape—the Sandman.

If that weren't enough, some alien goo drops out of the sky and hitches a ride back to Parker's apartment. The alien merges with him, transforming his Spidey-suit into an all black version—and also brings out his dark side.

What a tangled web we weave. With all this going on, it's a wonder that the film finds any slow spots, but the plodding screenplay makes the audience feel every single of its 156 minutes.

There are too many faults of this once-proud franchise to point out here. The strength of the first two films was in the characterization, notably Maguire's take on Parker. That's the best part of *Spider-man 3*, seen when Parker tries to explain to Mary Jane why the applause after her performance didn't sound loud to her—it all had to do with the acoustics of the theater, he explained, going off into a tangent on how sound waves can be diffused through architectural design.

There's not enough of that, though, and the rest of it is strained, at best.

The film also turns the original movie around, by re-explaining that the death of Parker's uncle, Ben, came at the hands of Marko, not the burglar from the first film—and the comic series.



I'm not sure why that was necessary; maybe it's only noble enough to try to stop a man who destroys city blocks as he robs banks if there's something personal behind it, too.

The special effects were adequate, but most fight scenes looked like they were filmed with a camera on a bungee cord strapped in front of a video game.

Comic book films have made great strides in recent years, but this is a step in the wrong direction. Don't get tangled up in it.



'Beat the Bulldozer' has successful debut for Wayne theater

Scott Spielman
Editor

The 'Beat the Bulldozer' concert series got off to a swinging start on Friday in the City of Wayne.

The Livonia Civic Chorus began the summer-long series, which is a fundraiser to gather money to save the Historic Wayne Theater. The chorus, which may use the theater as a base of operations when and if it reopens, performed a preview of their own summer music series, a tribute to the music of James Bond movies.

"We had a pretty good turnout," said Don Nicholson, capital fundraising chairman for the theater group. "We even made a little money on our first concert."

Nicholson has assembled a collection of local and regional talent to play at the outdoor space at the theater every Friday night until the end of August. Next up are two local bands, Fight Like Sinatra and Muff. Nicholson said they perform alternative rock music.

"The next two weeks we're going to have the same kind of music," he said. "It's going to be



The Livonia Civic Chorus began the 'Beat the Bulldozer' concert series at the Historic Wayne Theater last Friday.

bigger with the kids."

Nicholson is spearheading an effort to restore the Historic Wayne Theater, which opened nearly 80 years ago. It's been

empty and vacant for more than 20 years, while an effort to slowly bring the theater back up to code has taken place.

Those efforts picked up steam

last year, when the building was cited under the Dangerous Building Ordinance. He and other volunteers have worked with the city to develop a timetable to put funding in place to restore the theater, with a deadline set for this September.

"I think we can do it, but we need some help from the community," Nicholson said.

Other performances scheduled throughout the summer include Benny and the Jets, a performance of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, a Kiss tribute band, jazz bands and more.

THE SCENE

Events will aid area veterans

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Want to help a veteran? You'll soon get your chance.

Veteran's Haven of Wayne is hosting two events next week to aid veterans.

According to Scott Romp, public relations coordinator for the group, the fundraisers are designed to help the registered non-profit organization continue to meet a growing need.

"We have close to 5,000 homeless veterans just in the Detroit area," he said. "Twenty-three percent of the homeless in America are veterans. Michigan ranks eighth in the country."

"The Veterans Administration right now is under funded and overburdened," he said.

He added that for the veterans, receiving their compensation often hinges on seeing a doctor—and that the wait time at a Veterans Administration hospital can be months. Meanwhile, veterans—particularly those without strong networks of family or friends to fall back on—can get caught in a spiral that ends in homelessness, according to Romp.

Operated by veterans for veterans, Veteran's Haven is designed to break that cycle by helping down-on-their-luck veterans find the help they need. To meet what Romp called a "rising

need", though, the group needs some help from the public.

For those who consider themselves good shots, bragging rights and a chance to showcase their skills will be available between May 14-18 when Veteran's Haven and the Firing Line offer a shooting competition. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. throughout next week, visitors to the Firing Line indoor gun range in Westland will be able to shoot in the competition for a \$10 donation. Participants can shoot more than once with the highest score being recorded and two divisions—Military and Non-Military—will be available. The victors will have their names placed on a trophy that will remain on display at the Firing Line, Romp said. All proceeds for the competition will benefit Veteran's Haven. The Firing Line is located at 38427 Webb Dr. off of Hix Road, just north of Ford Road. For more information about the shooting competition, call the Firing Line at (734) 326-7320 or Veteran's Haven at (734) 478-0822.

Tickets are also available for an Armed Forces Day dinner and celebration, which will be offered from 7 p.m. to midnight May 19, which is the national Armed Forces Day.

"It's a day to remember everyone who has served in the military," said Romp.

Open to the public, the event is designed to provide an entertaining night on the town while raising money for a more serious cause—providing for veterans. The party, which will take place at the Wayne Ford Civic League, will include live music by the Christy Howard Band, award presentations for the winners of the shooting competition, a buffet dinner, and an open bar. It will also feature auction items including Detroit Tigers and Detroit Red Wings memorabilia and an iPod Nano Shuffle as a door prize.

The Wayne Ford Civic League is located on 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland. The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Veteran's Haven at (734) 478-0822. Due to the necessities of preparing sufficient food, Romp said that pre-registration by May 17 would be appreciated although it is not required.

"We all support our troops, but we have to support them when they come home as well," said Romp. "If we don't want to repeat what happened to our veterans after Vietnam, we need to do something."

Since its creation, Veteran's Haven has assisted over 10,000 veterans with food, clothing, transportation and supportive/transitional housing.

Singer releases emotional new CD

Renee White
Staff Writer

Country singer Miranda Lambert had a lot to live up to when she released her sophomore album, "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," last Tuesday.

Her first album, "Kerosene," debuted at number one on Billboard's country charts in 2005. Two years earlier, after Lambert gained fame as a finalist on "Nashville Star," USA Network's country version of "American Idol."

"Kerosene" was praised because of its raw lyrics and powerful music. The album produced several hits for the blonde-haired Texan, including the title track, "Me and Charlie Talking" and "New Strings."

In her sophomore effort, Lambert does little to adjust the formula that gained her so much success. If anything, actually improves it.

The songs, like those on "Kerosene," are almost all written by Lambert herself. The lyrics give a deep glimpse into her life, spirit and personality.

Even the few songs that she

didn't write are sung with such passion that it is obvious she believes in what she is singing. "Easy From Now On," written by Carlene Carter and Susanna Clark, has her crooning about leaving a man she knows is no-good, but loves anyway. There is an element of poignant sadness in her voice that convinces me that she has been in this position before.

This album, however, is as multi-faceted as the 23-year-old's personality. She is known as being one of country music's resident rebels and female rockers.

"Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" has its fair share of songs that support this reputation.

Lambert had the opportunity to expand her musical horizons and experiment with her style. Luckily for all of us, she stuck with what made fans love her in the first place—personality, emotion and heart.

"Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" not only finishes what "Kerosene" started, but it takes it to the next level. Fans of real music and true artistry will not be disappointed.

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Police briefs

Two juveniles injured after hit by vehicle

Two Van Buren Township teens are recovering from injuries sustained when they were struck by a moving vehicle as they attempted to cross Rawsonville Road recently.

According to Det. Louis Keele of the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department, the incident happened at about 4 p.m. last week at Rawsonville Road south of Huron River Drive. The teen girls, 14 and 15, were walking along the street when a Cadillac traveling north-bound on Rawsonville Road hit them, police said.

"They were going to cross the street and there was ongoing traffic," Keele said.

The victims received minor injuries to the head, broken bones and lacerations, but both are expected to make a full recovery, Kelle said.

A preliminary investigation determined the 35-year-old female driver of Willis was not under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. It is currently still under investigation, though, police said.

Anyone with additional information about the accident is asked to contact Keele at (734) 699-8917 or Ofc. Mark Buxton of the traffic services unit at (734) 699-8904.

Police warn citizens about pyramid, Internet scams
Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor has issued a warning

about about two recent scams. People have received requests from a Lonnie J. Staton of Pennsylvania, according to Taylor. The subject poses as lawyer who tells citizens "everything is on the up and up." The only one who profits, however, is the person on the top, Taylor said.

The second scam is new on the scene, but becoming more common each day, according to police.

It is where a product is being offered on the Internet for a price that is well below the normal prices. The victim is told of a tragedy in the other person's life and they have to sell a reminder of the person to just get rid of it. This has happened twice, according to Taylor. Once for a \$25,000 Harley motorcycle from London, England (\$10,000) and for an \$18,000 car from Chicago (\$6,300.) Both times the people lost their money, police said.

As the old saying goes, "if it is too good to be true then it is," Taylor said.

Fire department rescues 7 from burning apartment

The Van Buren Township Fire Department rescued seven people from inside an apartment building after a kitchen fire broke-out recently.

The fire happened at about 7:43 a.m. on April 28 at the Harbour Club apartment complex on Denton Road in the township.

Upon arrival, police officials

attempted to wake and evacuate all three floors of the apartment building because of heavy smoke coming from a second floor apartment. A survey of the scene also revealed that seven people were trapped on third floor balconies because of smoke in the hallways. All seven, including a 2-year-old boy were safely lowered to the ground, fire officials said.

Officials discovered the fire had started in a second floor apartment kitchen and extinguished it, along with the burning cabinets and stove top. It's suspected to have started with an unattended candle that was left on the stovetop and was ruled accidental by the fire investigation team.

At least one family was displaced. Damages were estimated at about \$250,000, according to officials.

Electrical fire could be cause of destroyed mobile home

An electrical fire could be the cause of damage to a Van Buren Township mobile home.

The fire started at about 8:25 p.m. on April 24 at the 6600 block of Liberty Lane in the Capitol Hills manufactured home community. Fire officials arrived to discover police on the scene and heavy smoke coming from the eaves of a doublewide mobile home, according to reports.

Battalion Chief Ron Folks initiated the incident command system and called the Huron Valley Ambulance paramedics as a fire-fighter safety standby, officials

said. Crews continued to survey the scene, while performing fire ground task and, fire was located in an open attic space. Teams were then sent to the roof to open it up further to access the fire and inside the home. Due to the fire in the attic space, the home was presumed to total about \$110,000 in loss, fire officials said.

The investigation continues into the cause of the fire. An exterior light fixture attached to the home could be the potential source, according to fire officials.

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SPORTS

Whalers-Wolves series tied, 1-1

Renee White
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers split the first two games of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) finals against the Sudbury Wolves at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth last weekend.

The Whalers, who are in the finals for the first time since 2001, came out strong in game 1 on Friday, beating the Wolves 4-1. Matt Dias scored Sudbury's lone goal early in the first period, and Plymouth answered with four goals in the third.

James Neal and Chris Terry had a goal apiece, while Andrew Fournier netted two, including the short-handed game-winner.

Michal Neuvirth made 29 saves for the Whalers.

The Whalers floundered on Sunday, losing 7-3. The last time they had given up seven goals in one game was at the season opener against Sarnia on Sept. 22.

James Neal started the scoring for Plymouth in the first period, but Kevin Baker answered the goal three minutes later.

Sudbury dominated in the second period, scoring four goals to Plymouth's two. Devin

DiDionete and Dias both scored for Sudbury in the second, and Andrew Self contributed two goals. The Whaler goals came from Daniel Ryder and Dan Collins. The Wolves finished their scoring in the third, with goals from DiDionete and Justin Donati.

Neuvirth was pulled about halfway through the second period, after Sudbury had scored three consecutive goals. Jeremy Smith replaced him in net, seeing his first game action since the first round of the playoffs.

"We weren't really sharp," Collins said after Sunday's loss. "We couldn't get out of the hole we dug ourselves into."

Whalers Head Coach Mike Vellucci said that while his team's defense struggled, he thought the Whalers worked extremely hard.

"Sudbury's a very good team," he said. "They didn't get here by mistake. I never took them lightly; maybe some of our guys did tonight."

"It's a seven-game series—the first to four wins," he added. "We've bounced back before."

Vellucci also said that bad breaks and poor officiating led to Sunday's loss.

"I think [Sudbury] got away with a lot," Vellucci said



Michal Neuvirth makes a stop to help the Whalers win Game 1 of the OHL Championship series at home on Friday. The series is knotted, 1-1.

Sunday. "It looked like a rodeo. It looked like the old NHL tonight."

Wolves Head Coach Mike Foligno said that Sunday's win was just what his team needed.

"We believe we can beat Plymouth and this was our chance to show them we're a team to be reckoned with," Foligno said.

There were several former Whalers at last weekend's games, including John Mitchell and Tim Sestito, who were both captains during the 2004-2005 season. In addition, fan favorite Gino Pisellini and last year's captain, John Vigilante, came

out to Plymouth to cheer for their former team. They signed autographs and mingled with fans as they walked around the concourse during intermissions.

"I like being here," Mitchell said. "I know a good majority of the guys and I played against a good majority of the guys. It was only two years ago that I was here."

Vigilante agreed. "It's good to be back," he said. "[The Whalers] had a great year."

The results of Tuesday and Wednesday's games in Sudbury weren't known at press time. The Whalers and Wolves play

Game 5 tomorrow night in Plymouth at 7:05 p.m.

Whalers draft has local flavor.

Victory tastes so good that Mike Vellucci, the Plymouth Whalers' president, general manager and head coach, figured he could cook something up for next year by adding some local flavor.

The day after the Whalers took a 1-game-to-0 lead over Sudbury in the OHL Rogers Championship Series on Friday, the team already started to prepare for the future with Saturday's draft.

See Whalers, page 11

Northville continues to dominate

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Northville Mustang baseball team might be the hottest team around.

After starting the season 2-4, the 'Stangs went on a 12-0 run that recently sat down teams like Canton, Salem, Wayne and Southgate.

"We really don't think about it," said Northville Coach John Kostrzewa of the streak. "We're not even that concerned about it. Our goal is to get better every game—and we have."

The real secret to their success was finding the error in the their ways—literally.

In the team's four losses—two games to Brighton and two to Saline in doubleheaders—errors and walks were the team's Achilles' heel, so to speak.

Against Brighton they gave up 13 walks and committed six errors—including five in one game. Northville led Saline 3-1 through five innings in the first game but made four errors that cost them that game.

Since spring break, Kostrzewa and company have cut back dras-

tically on errant plays and meaningless walks.

In their five games last week the Mustangs only made two errors and averaged less than two walks per game. The team only gave up four runs in those same five games.

On Saturday, Northville beat host Southgate in both games of a doubleheader.

Northville shut out the Titans, 6-0, in the first contest. The Mustangs scored four runs in the first frame for an early lead and held on from there.

Nick Balow pitched a three-hitter with seven strikeouts for the win. No errors were committed.

Joe Mitchell and Brett Yuhasz split time on the mound for a 14-1 second-game victory.

Before that the Mustangs tore through host Wayne Memorial, 9-1, on Friday.

Senior Brett Spencer pitched a complete game, giving up four hits and two walks while striking out nine. Senior Bryce Jenney had two hits on the day with a double. Dominic Benavidas, Gerard Powell and Mitchell all added two hits each.

Northville proved its resilience

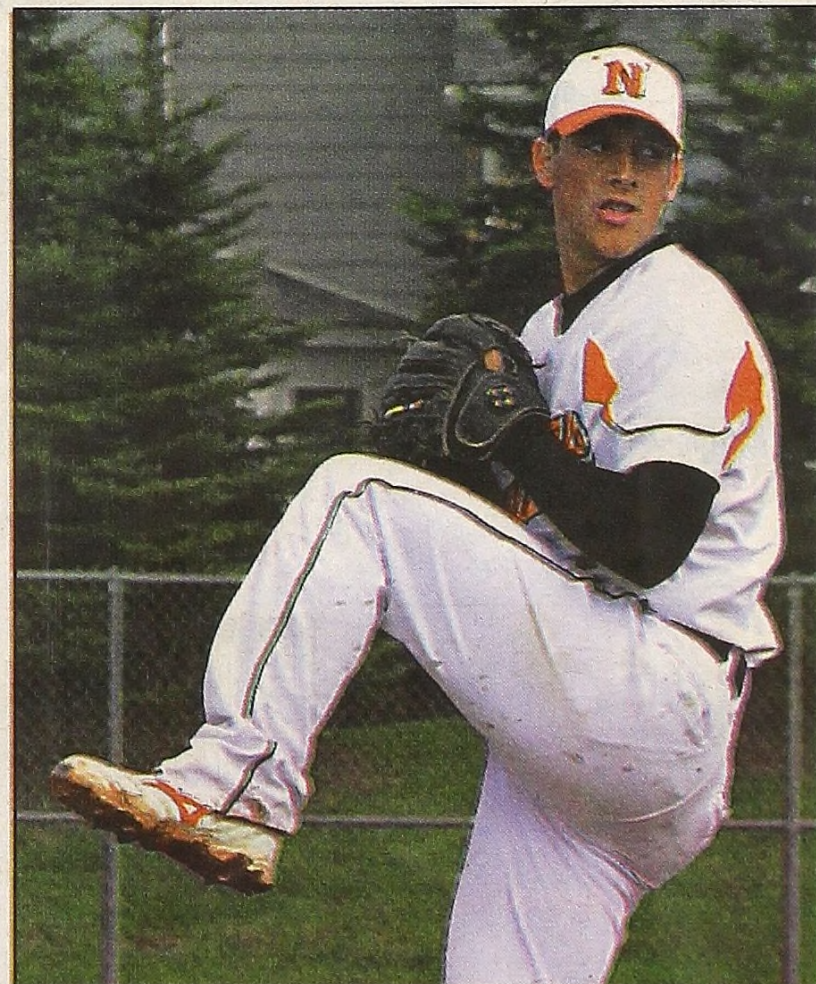
when it trailed Salem, 1-0, through four innings last Wednesday only to come back and win the game, 9-1. Mike Deluca earned the win in that game. He pitched a four-hitter in six innings. On offense he scored two runs and belted a home run in the sixth.

Northville beat Canton last Monday off the sure-fire arm of Jenney, who is heading to Western Kentucky University on a baseball scholarship. He sat down 15 Canton batters and only gave up three hits and one walk. He also ripped a double to score Spencer and give Northville an early 1-0 lead. Powell scored the other run for a 2-0 advantage.

Canton hit a solo homer for its only score.

"Each week we have gotten better in every aspect of the game," Kostrzewa said. "I think because kids are competing for playing time that the internal competition has made us better, individually and collectively."

"We decided to control the things that we can control like pitching and fundamentals," he added. "Since then we have improved and I'm happy with that



Northville's Mike Deluca readies to fire a pitch against Salem last week. He threw a four-hitter in the 9-1 victory. Photo by Ken Garner

improvement."

Northville heads to Franklin at 4 p.m. on Friday. Then the 'Stangs host Trenton at 10 a.m. on Saturday followed by a 1 p.m. con-

test with Allen Park. They play home games against Walled Lake Western at 4 p.m. on Monday and Stevenson at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

SPORTS

Down but not out

Belleville softball continues to win without starting players

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Lady Tigers softball team may be down but they're definitely not out. The team is missing two of its starters to injuries—shortstop Hillary Ivan and first baser Kendall Acho—but the team continues to win and the squad still has a substantial chance to make a move and capture the title in the tough Mega Red softball division. Early last week the Lady Tigers knocked off host Allen

Park, 5-2. Belleville had to battle from behind to get there, but they did. Allen Park scored two unearned runs in the fourth inning, giving them a 2-0 lead, but the rest of the game belonged to the Tigers. At the top of the fifth, Lacey Marcotte got on base with a single and eventually scored on a fielder's choice to cut the Jaguars' lead in half, 2-1. Between the sixth and seventh frames Belleville scored four more runs to put the game away. Belleville knotted things up in the sixth with a single from Angel

Matthews and a double by Marcotte and an error on the Jaguars' part. The Tigers battered the Jaguars with hits in the final round. Marcotte led off with a single and stole second. Then Jasmine "Blue" Haralson ripped a triple to score Marcotte. With Samantha Cole and Mathews on base, Danielle Stabnau doubled the runners in for the win. Cole pitched a four-hitter with nine strikeouts and no walks. The Tigers moved on to trump Garden City, 4-2, last Wednesday. The Cougars were ranked num-

ber-six in the state at the time. Belleville got on the board first with two runs in the opening frame. Cole doubled in Marcotte and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Matthews. Garden City closed the gap with a run in the second.

Belleville answered with another run in the third when Haralson singled Jessica Kovach in and put the game away in the fourth. "We're doing all that we can," See **Tigers**, page 12

Whalers

FROM PAGE 10

Plymouth spent four of its first five selections on players out of the Detroit-area. First-rounder Beau Schmitz, fourth-rounder R.J. Mahalak and fifth-rounder Zach Golembiewski skated for the national and state champion Belle Tire Under-16 team. "I watched Belle Tire quite a bit when they won the state and national championships," Vellucci said. "We always want to draft character players who are champions. We're losing a lot of forwards next year, so all three

players have a chance of stepping into the lineup next year." Kevin Lynch, the Whalers' third round pick, played with the Detroit Honeybaked 91's. Plymouth's second round pick—Taylor Carnevale—from the Mississauga Rebels, is a dual citizen. Schmitz, a Howell native, scored 13 goals with 51 assists in 72 games this year. Carnevale scored 41 goals with 60 assists in 70 games this season for the Rebels. "Carnevale's a born hockey player who lives and breathes hockey," Vellucci said. "He's great in his own end and a great face off guy – just a pure charac-

ter player." Lynch scored 36 goals with 24 assists in 61 games for the 91's this season. "Lynch (is) just a character kid," Vellucci said. "USA Hockey is interested in him. He's committed to come and play for us. He's just a mature kid and a very good player who does everything well." Mahalak scored 16 goals with 15 assists in 54 games and reminds Vellucci of current Whaler, Tom Sestito, who blossomed into an NHL-prospect over three seasons.

Additional reporting by Jeff Novak.

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SPORTS

Eagle baseball struggles continue

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Romulus Eagles baseball struggled through the first half of the season with a 1-11 record as of last Thursday, but you won't see them hanging their heads.

"We've been good about keeping our heads up," said Romulus Coach Tim Jager. "We're a young team that's struggling some on offense. We're a team that doesn't hang their heads after a loss. The kids have a good attitudes and know, even after a loss, that we'll be right back in the next one."

Romulus lost both games of a double-header to Ann Arbor Huron last Thursday.

The Eagles fell, 11-1, in the first and 15-0 in three innings in the second.

"We had a really off day," Jager said. "We made a lot of errors and couldn't hit in the second game—which was probably our worst game of the season."

Junior shortstop Steve Hicks was 3-for-3 in the first game, all singles. Junior first baseman Larry Nastal had an RBI double to score sophomore second baseman Levi Adams for the lone Eagles run. Junior catcher Derrick Deaton went 1-for-3.

Adams had the only hit for the team in the second game.

Last Wednesday the Eagles lost to a visiting Thurston, 10-0.

Jager said Thurston scored three runs in the first for an early lead and then pecked a couple of runs in every inning or other for the win.

"We just weren't hitting the ball like we would have liked to," Jager said. "We just couldn't get key hits to move runners over."

Romulus continued to struggle on offense, leaving 10 runners stranded on base. Even so, junior third baseman Chad Williams was 2-for-2. Matt Adams went 1-for-2 and Levi Adams, 1-for-1.

Romulus earned its first check in the "W" column when they beat visiting Dearborn Fordson, 13-3, last Monday.

Williams pitched five and a third innings for the win with six strikeouts.

Levi Adams was strong at the plate; he went 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Deaton was 2-for-3 with an RBI and Hicks had two hits with two RBIs.

Romulus is at Annapolis at 4 p.m. on Friday. They host Ypsilanti Lincoln in a doubleheader at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Edsel Ford at 4 p.m. on Monday. The Eagles head to Crestwood for a 4 p.m. contest on Wednesday.

"We made a lot of errors and couldn't hit in the second game—which was probably our worst game of the season."

Coach Tim Jager

Tigers

FROM PAGE 11

said Belleville Coach Peggy Curtis of her short-handed team. "We're playing really well right now for losing two starters. The girls are stepping up and playing hard."

Pitching keeps Belleville in most games. The arm of sophomore Cole is tough to beat and the team has solid defense to back her up, too. Curtis said the offense is streaky in the pitching-heavy Mega Red league, making every hit crucial.

The first stumbling block the team faced since the injuries was a tough Monroe host on Friday, proving that pitching is dominant in the Red.

The Lady Trojans squeaked out a 1-0 win.

The game was scoreless through the first six innings. Monroe pitcher Jessica Irwin had a no-hitter going and Cole only allowed one hit. In the seventh, Kovach and Marcotte got on base with singles. Then, with two outs and runners at second and third, Belleville's big hitter Haralson took to the plate. Curtis wanted the hit in the bunting situation. Haralson didn't connect, leaving runners on base.

At the bottom of the final frame, Irwin nailed a double for Monroe, with two outs. Then, in what would be considered a controversial call by Belleville led to Monroe's win. The umpire called Monroe's next batter safe after another referee called her out. The debacle bought Irwin time and she scored the lone and winning score.

"It was a tough game to lose," Curtis said. "The umpire said Kovach bobbled the ball."

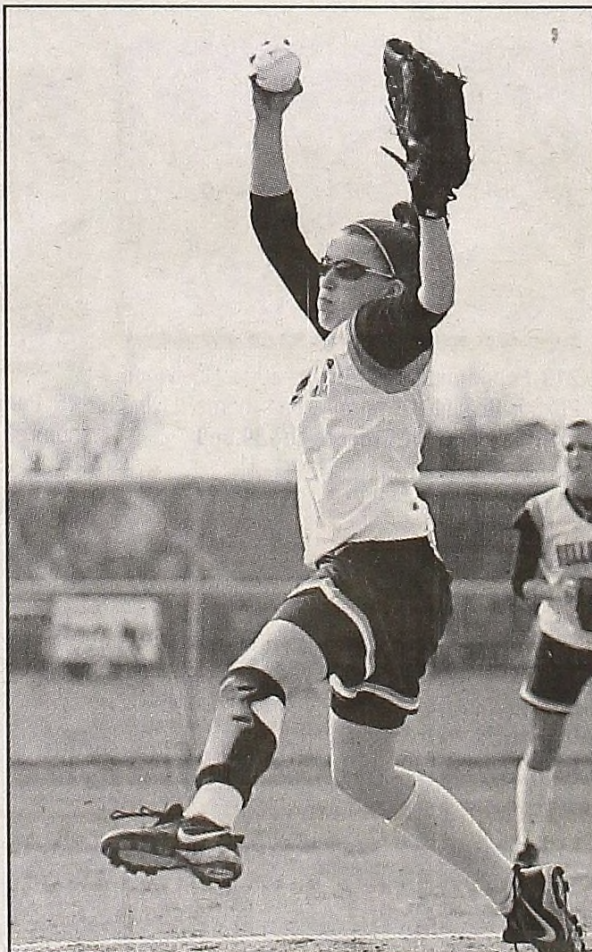
"Monroe's a good team and it just didn't work out for us," she added. "I told the girls that we

hung with a good team that didn't lose two starters. Yes, it was tough but we played well."

It won't be easy, but Belleville still have a chance to win or at least share the Red title. The Lady Tigers will have to win the rest of their league games from here on out and hope Trenton, who leads the division, loses a few along the way.

"We just have to play the best we can against these teams," Curtis said. "If we don't win we have to look at it as getting ready for districts by playing these tough teams but we will battle with them."

Belleville will compete against Canton, Novi and Summerfield on Saturday at the Canton Classic Tournament. The Tigers then host Southgate on Monday.



Belleville sophomore hurler Samantha Cole has helped the Lady Tigers stay in games despite a shortened roster due to injuries. File photo



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SPORTS

Glenn golfers split with Chiefs, 'Cats

Tanya Wildt
Staff Writer

The John Glenn varsity girls golf team is on course to fulfill their goal for the remainder of the season: to win half of their matches. The team lost Thursday 209-196 to Plymouth, but topped Canton on Friday, 196-216.

Senior Jessica Veltri led the Rockets with a score of 44 Friday, tying Canton's lowest.

Seniors and co-captains Taylor Morgan and Jessica Riggs both finished with 50.1. Sophomore Courtney McKinney shot a 52.

"Everyone did really well," Riggs said. "Everyone did lower than their average."

Riggs said she was impressed with the Canton team, which only had four players, not the normal six.

"They finished the game really well and they had a good attitude," she said.

Besides winning half their matches, Glenn is also attempting to improve on its 9th place league finish.

"What would be great would be to better that record," said Coach Steve Pilon.

Riggs agreed. "We're in the middle of the



Glenn golfer Jessica Riggs shot a 50.1 to help beat Canton on Friday.
Photo by Tanya Wildt

pack in our conference," Riggs said. "It'd be nice to move up a few spots."

In order to meet that goal, victories are a must this season.

"We've been focusing on winning that's for sure," Veltri said.

The golfers have worked on their short game and putting this season. Efforts fell short by the smallest amount when the girls played Edsel Ford and Franklin earlier in the season, losing by one stroke in each match.

"That was kind of a hard match to lose because we've never beat [Franklin] before," McKinney said.

Even so, the competition was much closer than it had been in recent years, when the Franklin team easily handled the Rockets.

"Usually we lose to [Franklin] by 30," Morgan said. "It's still hard losing by one, but at least we improved."

Improvement has been evident for the team during the past few seasons. Riggs, who has played on the team for four years, said that only three people showed up at the first practice during her freshmen year, but the team managed to gain three more players in time for the season.

There are 17 girls on the roster this year—six on varsity and 11 on junior varsity.

"I'm really proud of the girls recruiting other friends," Pilon said.

Friday's win puts Glenn at 3-5 with five matches remaining.

Wayne soccer beats Western, falls to Northville

Renee White
Staff Writer

The Wayne Memorial High School women's soccer team went 1-2 last week, beating Walled Lake Western, but falling to Northville and Walled Lake Central.

The Zebras faced Walled Lake Western on April 30 and won, 3-2. It was a significant win, according to Coach Evan Baker.

"The game against Walled Lake Western was the first conference game we've won since we switched to the WLAA (Western Lakes Activities Association)," Baker said. "It's been about three or four years in the making."

The Lady Zebras weren't as successful last Wednesday, when they faced Northville—currently ranked eight in the state. The Zebras lost, 7-0.

"Wednesday was pretty rough," Baker said, adding that the Mustangs have Olympic development players and are a "really tough" team.

Friday, the Zebras faced Walled Lake Central, ranked ninth in the state, and lost, 5-1. Baker was impressed by the way

his team played.

"We were able to get a goal and get some decent momentum," he said.

As of Monday, the Zebras' record is 3-6-1. There are six games remaining in the regular season, and then the team will play in a conference crossover. The conference crossover will be against the team that finished in the same spot in the other half of the conference. After that, playoffs begin and they will play until they lose.

Baker is currently in his first year as head coach of Wayne's women's soccer team. He previously spent two and a half years coaching the Plymouth Lightning and one year as the men's soccer assistant coach at Plymouth Christian Academy.

He said that his biggest challenge is changing the player's attitudes and describes himself as an "incredibly competitive" person.

"A lot of girls expect to lose since they're in such a powerhouse conference," he said. "It really helps them to know that they have someone who wants them to win and someone who believes in them."

"We were able to get a goal and get some decent momentum."

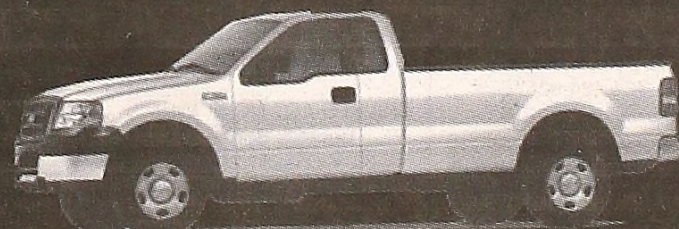
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1. Obituaries

LOPOTA, Andrew of Westland (formerly of Romulus), died April 29, 2007. Beloved husband of Wilma and the late Mickie. Dear father of Candice Jarvis (Joseph), Andrew K. (Wendy), Kevin M. (Pamela) and Lori Aldrich (Dale Clore). Brother of Irene Koutalakis. Grandfather of 7 and great grandfather of 9. Mr. Lopota was a member of the 82nd Airborne, K of C #3021, Kiwanis and many other organizations. Funeral Mass was held at St. Aloysius Church, Romulus. Final arrangements were entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne, MI.

SANDLIN, Katherine, M., age 68 of Wayne, died May 2, 2007. Beloved mother of Brian, Susan, Tiffany and the late Dwayne Sandlin. Loving daughter of Evelyn and the late Ervin Smith. Dear grandmother of Dwayne Sandlin Jr., Jody Sandlin, Chavonne Abraham, Nicholas Genung and Mariah Fairchild. Sister of Audrey (the late Richard) Chaffin, James (Sherrie) Smith, Theresa (James) Maiuri and Douglas (Connie) Smith. Memorial Mass was held at St. Mary Church, Wayne. Cremation rites have been accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Uht Funeral Home. Please visit and post a tribute at www.uhtfh.com.

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Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

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